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# LETTERS

## BURCHETT

Della Brown, San Jose, Calif.:  
We owe a great debt to Wilfred  
Burchett who has so effectively  
and clearly reported to us the  
true facts behind the barrage of  
administration propaganda  
regarding what was actually  
happening to the people of  
Indochina. His revelations of the  
CIA activities in Laos, the U.S.  
invasion of Cambodia and the  
change in government there,  
have been of tremendous help to  
us in understanding the true  
nature of the U.S. policies in  
those countries.

## LETTERS

## Taiwan independence

*Joseph T. Miller, Niles, Ill.*

It is obvious from your editorial in the Oct. 20 issue that the Guardian staff has come down with the same malady which afflicts Wilfred Burchett. The editorial of which I write is that headed "Two Americas," and the malady is that of "myopic Sinophobia".

Any radical personage or publication which touts self-determination for the peoples of Indochina and yet rejects the same for the people of Formosa can only hold a double standard. This is one of the most unrealistic viewpoints now prevailing in the U.S. radical movement. Just because China says that Formosa is part of her "sacred territory" doesn't make it so. Mao, himself, rejected that idea in an interview with Edgar Snow in 1936.

Whatever happened to the Guardian of June 9 and its report of a Taiwan independence movement which was frightening Chiang Kai-shek? Did the Guardian proceed to analyze the movement and its history? No, it did not. Instead, a very convenient item in the New York Times solved the dilemma. The item talked about some Americans, one, a CIA agent, being told to leave Formosa because of alleged connections with the independence movement. Well, Burchett hopped on this right away, readily ignoring the 75-year history of Formosan nationalism and the fact of an abortive Formosan revolution even before the CIA existed. He repeated the Chinese claim, both nationalist and com-

munist, that the movement for Formosan independence was a U.S.-Japan "plot." I will allow that with present circumstances, the U.S. would very much like to keep Formosa in its sphere, and the CIA could very well become involved. But, our job is to keep that from happening; to allow the Formosan people to decide their own fate.

Self-determination cannot be limited to certain struggles and the fallacy of Formosa as Chinese territory should not deter us from support of the Formosan people's struggle. Also, we should not cloud the issue with silly editorial analogies which do not jibe with the historical situation of Formosa and her people.